

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 066464
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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P 250454Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 066464

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CALL ON MENGISTU

REF: (A) ADDIS ABABA 1721 (B) STATE 62081

1. WE HAVE CONSIDERED YOUR SUGGESTIONS IN REFTEL A, AND
OFFER THE FOLLOWING, WHICH MAKES OUR DESIRED POINT ABOUT A
SOLUTION IN ERITREA IN A MORE ACCEPTABLE MANNER, AS
SUBSTITUTION FOR PARAGRAPH 7 OF REFTEL B:

QUOTE: WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR
CONCERN OVER EVENTS IN ERITREA. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE
QUESTION OF ERITREA IS AN INTERNAL ETHIOPIAN AFFAIR. THE
EPMG SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT POPULAR OPINION IN THE
UNITED STATES HAS GROWN CONCERNED OVER THE USE OF U.S.
ARMS IN THE CIVIL STRIFE IN ERITREA, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT
BRINGS SUFFERING TO CIVILIAN NON-COMBATANTS. THIS CONCERN

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IS PARTIALLY REFLECTED IN THE DECISION TO END A MAP
PROGRAM. WE RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF A GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN
ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, BUT WE CONTINUE STRONGLY TO
FAVOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. WE ARE NOT CONCERNED
WHETHER NEGOTIATING PROCESS LEADS TO INTEGRATION OF
ERITREA, AUTONOMY OR FEDERATION, SO LONG AS AGREEMENT CAN
BE REACHED AND IS SELF-ENFORCING. DOES THE PMAC NOT FEEL

THAT A RETURN TO AUTONOMY AT LEAST AS EXTENSIVE AS EXISTED
UNDER THE OLD UN-SPONSORED FEDERATION WOULD BE A
COMPROMISE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND
THE ERITREANS? END QUOTE.

3. IN PLACE OF FIRST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 8, YOU MAY
SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING: QUOTE: THE LACK OF HIGH-LEVEL
DISCUSSIONS HAS PREVENTED A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON
DJIBOUTI AT POLICY LEVELS. END QUOTE.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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